FIRST™ COMICS

JULY $1.00
NO. 4
$1.25 CANADA

E-MAN™

LOOK OUT!
THIS COMIC BOOK IS ABOUT TO
EXPLODE!!

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plus michael mauser...solo!

FIRST™ NOTES

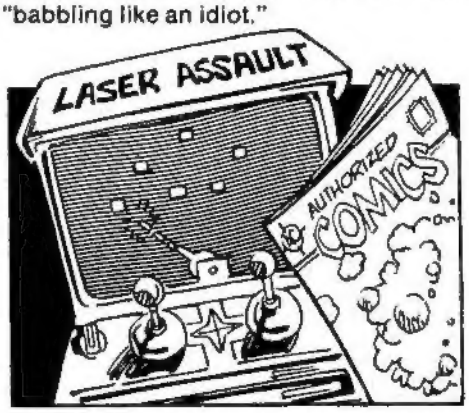
A SERIOUS EDITORIAL, HONEST

While attending last fall's Boston Newcon, I was listening to a report on the news about the U.S. Surgeon General proclaiming video games to be hazardous to our children's health. Ah, the spectre of Wertham past!

Before I continue, I'd like to make a few things clear: First Comics does not do any work with any video game manufacturers, nor do we carry any advertising from such companies. Not that we wouldn't, we merely haven't. Yet. Indeed, we are in competition with video games: the dollars people spend on such entertainment could be spent on comic books, preferably First Comics comic books.

But the words of the Surgeon General bothered me. They still do. The words of the professional doomsayers — the psychologists and so-called educators who denounce whatever it is that kids think is fun — bother me even more.

Several days later, I came across a tiny notice in the Boston GLOBE that said the surgeon general admitted he didn't know what he was talking about. More to the point, the Surgeon General said his comments were made off-the-cuff, without benefit of facts or studies. He merely said what seemed logical to him at the time. In our business, we call that "babbling like an idiot."



Comics fans properly should find such comments disconcerting. Thirty years ago, our medium was forced into rigorous — and asinine — censorship. Similar comments were made about comic books: in the early 1950s, the so-called experts equated the reading of comic books with the rise in juvenile delinquency, and televised congressional committee hearings schlepped comics people up before the cameras and denounced them as cerebral child molesters.

As Rosanne Rosanadana used to say, it's always something. If it's not one thing, it's another. If it's not comic books, it's video games. Or movies. Or television. Or "violence" in general.

Three, maybe four generations of Americans were raised on Three Stooges movies — yet the hand-wringers believe it is the present generation of children that will be corrupted by them. Three generations of Americans were raised on Bugs Bunny cartoons, yet today "concerned citizens" believe they are bad for our youth. So Bugs Bunny cartoons, Three Stooges shorts and dozens of other entertainment experiences have been forced to go through censorship — scenes cut, works of art reduced to meaningless doilies.

When these people take up their battle, they start talking about levels of violence — today's children witness X hundreds of "acts of violence" per week. THEREFORE we must have less violent programming. We must SAVE THE CHILDREN.

Nonsense. The average child today "witnesses" far fewer "acts of violence" per week on television today than his counterpart did forty years ago, when his parents plopped him down at the movie theater for a Saturday matinee and saw a cartoon, a short, a chapter of a serial, and two movies — a four hour experience chock full of violence.

That generation grew up to be pretty healthy. My generation, raised on 1950s television, grew up pretty healthy. After thirty years, I think I can say with some certainty that rock and roll isn't destroying our children. The cartoons and movies that were good enough for their parents, their grandparents and their great grandparents are good enough for them.

Comic books do not breed juvenile delinquents. Video games do not breed abnormal children.

But I'll tell you just what — and who — is harming our nation's youth: The attitude that the responsibility for raising our children rests in the hands of someone other than the parents, That is what's harming our children. Parents who persist in blaming outside media (rock music, television, comics, video games); that is who's harming our children. Moronic or money-grubbing psychologists and their ilk who persist in writing books and appearing on television and radio talk shows and encouraging parents to go blame someone else; that is who's harming our children.

To quote a popular rock song: leave the kids alone.

End of serious editorial.

– Mike Gold

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A FIRST COMICS PUBLISHING PRODUCTION

ALSO FIRST IN MARCH:

Jon Sable, Freelance #2: "Death Is A Bum Deal" written and drawn by **Mike Grell.** Why is somebody killing off Bowery Street winos by the gross? How does this tie into a plot involving computer-age Nazis? More importantly, how does Jon Sable fit into all of this? Another book-length thriller guaranteed to keep you on the edge of your chair, and it's on sale right now!

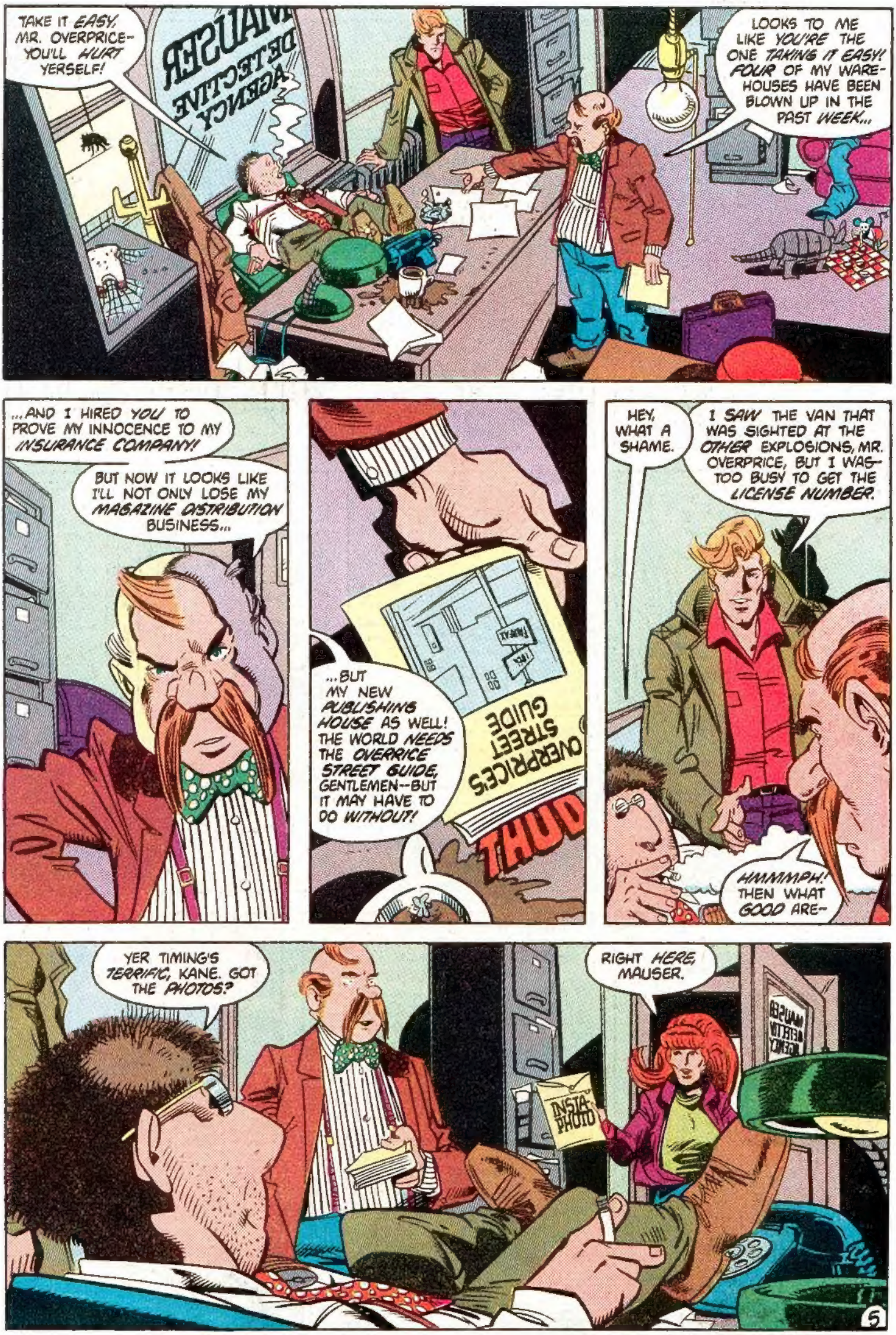
Warp Special #1, featuring **Chaos, Prince of Madness!**: Interrupting our Warp saga this month for "The (Not-So) Secret Origin Of Prince Chaos," an original booklength thriller written by **Peter Gillis,** pencilled by **Howard Chaykin** and inked by **George Freeman.** By now, you know that Chaos is the weirdest guy ever to grace the four-color page, but did you ever wonder how he came to be, and how he first met up with Lord Cumulus and Valaria? As you will see from the cover to this historic tale, we've pulled out all the stops on this one!

HELLO DERE! I'M DR. ALBERT EINSTEIN, AND I AM YOUR NARRATOR, EVEN THOUGH I'M DEAD*
E=MC2
*KIDS, DO NOT TRY THIS TRICK WITHOUT ADULT SUPERVISION! --MIKE.
BUT VE CAN TALK ABOUT ME ZOME UDDER TIME! NOW I DIRECT YOUR ATTENTION TO A VAREHOUSE IN BROOKLYN...
OVERPRICE MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS
ANYTHING HAPPENIN', TRONN?
NOT YET, MIKE. ER...ARE YOU ALMOST THROUGH WITH THAT SANDWICH?
YEAH ÷urp÷ WHY, YOU WANT A BITE?
NOT ANY MORE...
"...ZUDDENLY..."
HMMMMN
KA-WHOOOMB!
SMUCKOLICKS
THE TEEN CRETINS
REX THE WONDER DUCK
THRILLING LAWYER STORIES
HIS BRIEFS ARE ATOMIC!
MONOPOLY BELL
BRINNNNNGG
THE WAREHOUSE.. IT BLEW UP!
THIS IS A JOB...
9MM

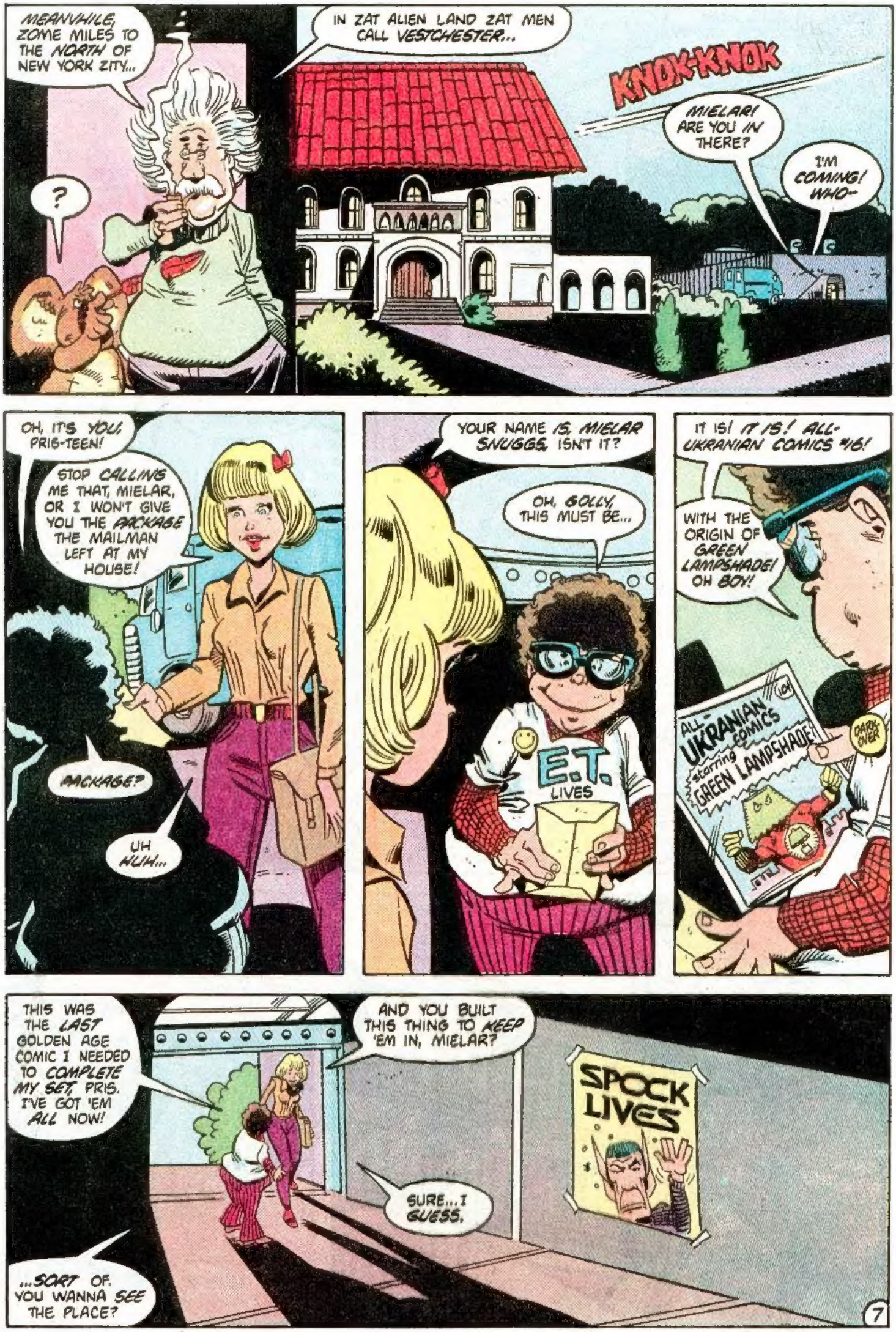
E-MAN
LOOK OUT
CREATED BY NICOLA CUTI AND JOE STATON
JUST $1.00 NO. 4 $1.25 CANADA
FIRST COMICS
...FOR E-MAN!
DEAD BABIES IN FRENCH
HARVEY
HELLO? WHAT? IF HE USES ANY MORE TRADEMARKED PHRASES, YOU'LL SEE US IN COURT! OKAY, I'LL TELL 'IM! 'BYE!
NASH
UNIFER
MEETS LIBERACE!
THE PAPER BOMB!
MIKE W. BARR, GUEST WRITER
JOE STATON, ARTIST
KEN BRUZENAK, LETTERER;:: WENDY FIORE, COLOR
MIKE GOLD, EDITOR
2

FLYING PAPER CAN'T HURT ANYONE--BUT FLYING CONCRETE CAN...
...UNLESS I LET IT SLIDE--TO THE GROUND!
HELP...!
THOSE WORKMEN...TRAPPED BY THE FLAMES...
HIYA, FELLAS! NEED A LIFT?
E-MAN! ANYTIME YOU WANT A JOB, BUDDY--YOU GOT ONE!
I APPRECIATE THAT, PAL! BUT FIRST...
HSSSSSSSS
...I'D BETTER MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A JOB TO GO BACK TO!
3

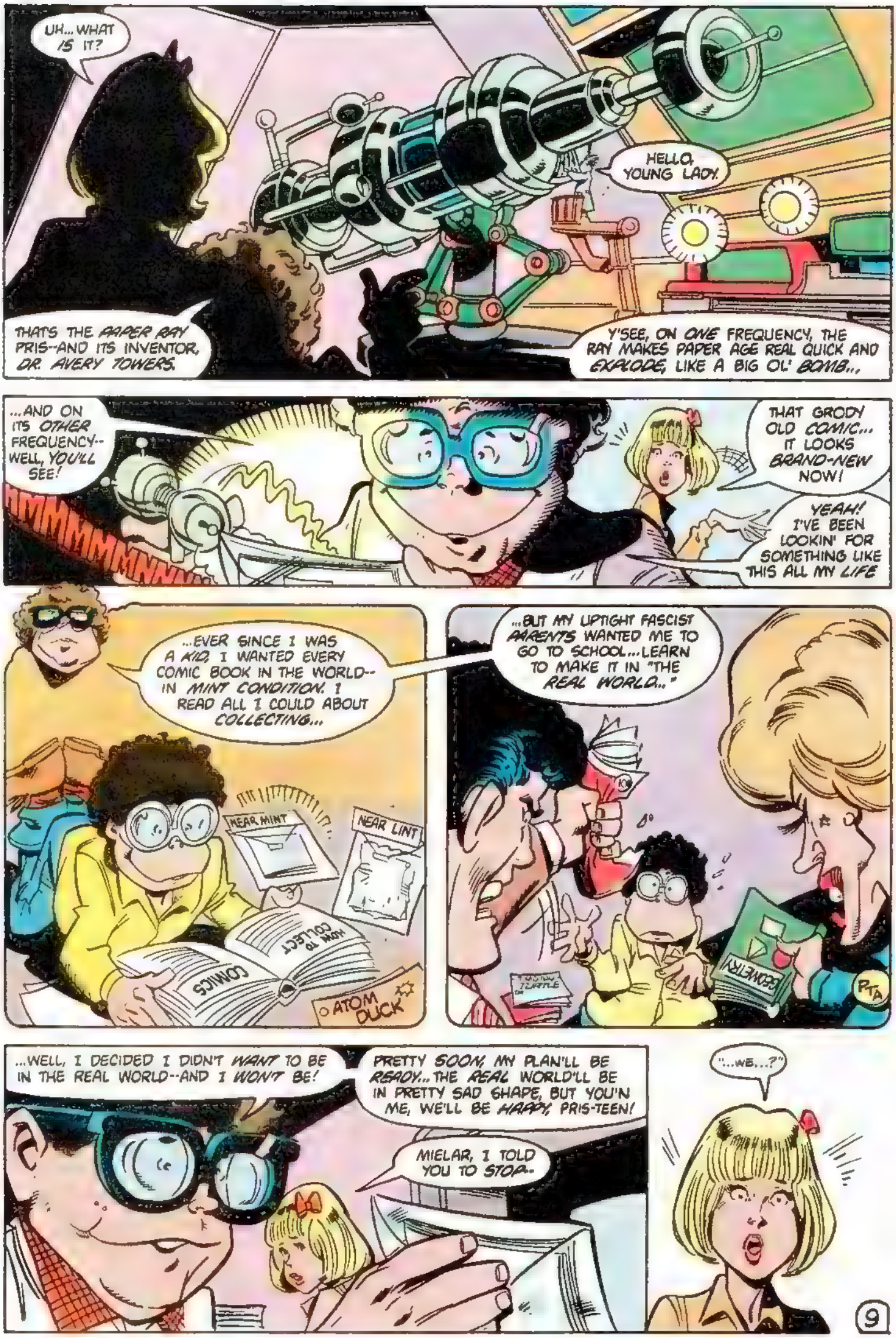
IT WENT JUST FINE, DR. TOWERS!
?
IT DID INDEED, MY BOY... THE FOURTH FIELD TEST OF THE PAPER RAY PROVED AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS! WE MAY MOVE ON TO STAGE TWO!
DICK TRACY SECRET DECODER RING
YEP!
WHOOOOOOSH
THANKS FOR GETTIN' RID'A THAT SMOKE, E-MAN! WE OWE YA!
I'LL CONSIDER US EVEN, FRIEND, IF YOU TELL ME WHAT CAUSED THE EXPLOSION!
BEATS ME! FIRST THING I KNEW, A BIG STACK'A LIFES WENT BLOOEY! AND THERE WASN'T NO BOMB HIDDEN IN 'EM, CAUSE I CHECKED 'EM!
REAL WEIRD! AND THIS AIN'T THE FIRST TIME IT'S HAPPENED!
YOU'RE TELLING ME!
"LADER, AT A RAPIDLY-DETERIORATING BUILDING IN LOWER MANHATTAN..."
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, MAUSER?
MAUSER DETECTIVE AGENCY
DISCOUNT DENTIST
HOY FAT
EAT TAKE OUT
4


TAKE IT EASY, MR. OVERPRICE--YOU'LL HURT YERSELF!
MAUSER DETECTIVE AGENCY
LOOKS TO ME LIKE YOU'RE THE ONE TAKING IT EASY! FOUR OF MY WAREHOUSES HAVE BEEN BLOWN UP IN THE PAST WEEK...
...AND I HIRED YOU TO PROVE MY INNOCENCE TO MY INSURANCE COMPANY!
BUT NOW IT LOOKS LIKE I'LL NOT ONLY LOSE MY MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTION BUSINESS...
...BUT MY NEW PUBLISHING HOUSE AS WELL! THE WORLD NEEDS THE OVERRICE STREET GUIDE, GENTLEMEN--BUT IT MAY HAVE TO DO WITHOUT!
OVERPRICE'S STREET GUIDE
THUD
HEY, WHAT A SHAME.
I SAW THE VAN THAT WAS SIGHTED AT THE OTHER EXPLOSIONS, MR. OVERPRICE, BUT I WAS--TOO BUSY TO GET THE LICENSE NUMBER.
HMMMPH! THEN WHAT GOOD ARE--
YER TIMING'S TERRIFIC, KANE. GOT THE PHOTOS?
RIGHT HERE, MAUSER.
INSTA-PHOTO
5

THEN HAND 'EM OVER, RED AND LET'S SEE WHAT'S WHAT.
INSTA-PHOTO
SURE.
YOU OKAY, NOVA?
SURE, ALEC.
FINE.
HERE WE GO...
THESE'RE THE PHOTOS I TOOK AT THE SCENE A'THE CRIME--THAT'S E-MAN FLYIN' OVER THE VAN...
...AND BY UTILIZIN' A VERY DELICATE TOOL A'THE TRADE, WE FIND THE LICENSE NUMBER OF THE VAN!
1982
POP CULT
NEW YORK
EXCELLENT, MAUSER! I'M SORRY I EVER DOUBTED YOU!
GOOD JOB, MIKE!
OCTOBER
NO SENSE TELLIN' 'EM I ONLY WANTED THE E-MAN PIX TA SELL TA PEOPLE MAGAZINE...
WE'LL TRACE THAT PLATE, MR. OVERPRICE, AND GET BACK TO YA, OKAY?
FINE, MY BOY!
6
I MAY BE A BETTER SUPERHERO THAN DETECTIVE, NOVA, BUT EVEN I CAN TELL YOU'RE NOT OKAY. YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT?
I... I DON'T KNOW, ALEC. I NEVER REALLY WANTED THOSE SUPER-POWERS OF MINE... BUT THEY'RE GONE NOW. I GOT USED TO HAVING THEM...
...AND I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN GET USED TO NOT HAVING THEM.


MEANWHILE, ZOME MILES TO THE NORTH OF NEW YORK ZITY...
?
IN ZAT ALIEN LAND ZAT MEN CALL VESTCHESTER...
KNOK-KNOK
MIELAR! ARE YOU IN THERE?
I'M COMING! WHO-
OH, IT'S YOU, PRIS-TEEN!
STOP CALLING ME THAT, MIELAR, OR I WON'T GIVE YOU THE PACKAGE THE MAILMAN LEFT AT MY HOUSE!
PACKAGE?
UH HUH...
YOUR NAME IS, MIELAR SNUGGS, ISN'T IT?
OH, GOLLY, THIS MUST BE...
E.T. LIVES
IT IS! IT IS! ALL-UKRANIAN COMICS #16!
WITH THE ORIGIN OF GREEN LAMPSHADE! OH BOY!
ALL-UKRANIAN COMICS starring GREEN LAMPSHADE!
DARK OVER
THIS WAS THE LAST GOLDEN AGE COMIC I NEEDED TO COMPLETE MY SET, PRIS. I'VE GOT 'EM ALL NOW!
AND YOU BUILT THIS THING TO KEEP 'EM IN, MIELAR?
SURE... I GUESS.
SPOCK LIVES
...SORT OF. YOU WANNA SEE THE PLACE?
7

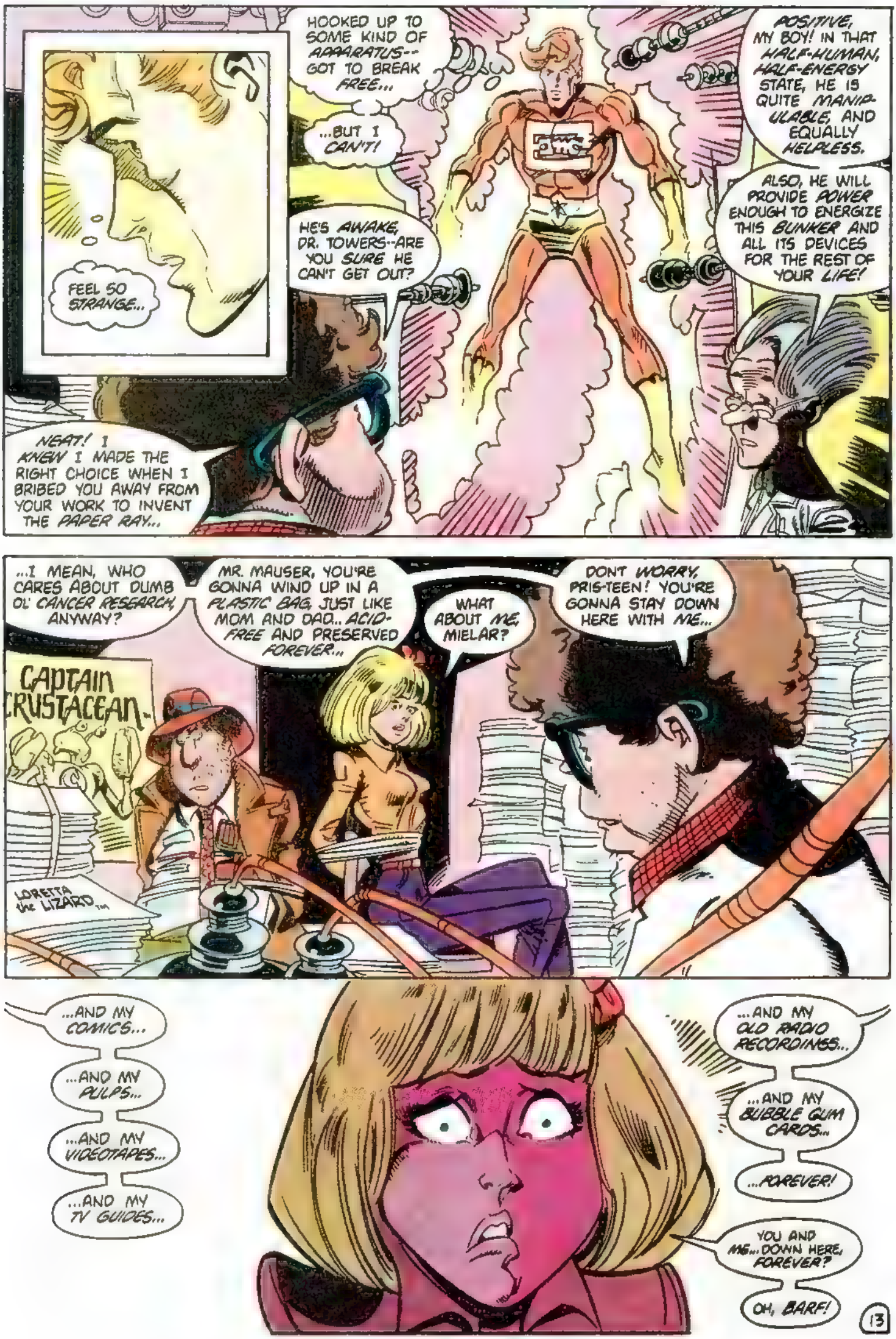
THIS IS WHERE I KEEP ALL THE COMICS! PRETTY NEAT, HUH?
I SUPPOSE, WHAT'S OVER HERE?
ROCKIN' RABBIT
LOOK UP THERE!
ROCKY JONE'S HE
FELIX'S FEET
THAT'S THE PRIZE OF MY COLLECTION...
...THE BULLET GEORGE REEVES KILLED HIMSELF WITH!
GOD, THAT'S GROSS! BUT THE OTHER ONE'S EMPTY!
I'M SAVING THAT ONE FOR THE BULLET CHRISTOPHER REEVE WILL USE ON HIMSELF.
B-BUT HE ISN'T DEAD YET..
HE WILL BE--I JUST SENT HIM THE COLLECTED REVIEWS OF "MONSIGNOR."
I ♥ UNICORNS
YOU WANNA SEE THAT MOVIE? I'VE GOT IT HERE, IN THE VIDEOTAPE ROOM...
...AND IN THIS ROOM, I'VE GOT ALL MY PAPERBACKS. BEATS THOSE DUMB OLD HARD-COVERS, ANY DAY.
THE MANGLER
THE EVISCERATOR
THE DUCK STUFFER
THE MOB-NUKER
SLASHER
PERRY RHODOZE
DUCKLINGS & DRAGONS
LOVE'S PASSI FLAME
FLAMING PASSIONATE LOVE
...AND HERE'S THE THING THAT'S GONNA MAKE ME THE HAPPIEST MAN ALIVE!
OH, WOW...!
8


UH... WHAT IS IT?
HELLO, YOUNG LADY.
THAT'S THE PAPER RAY PRIS--AND ITS INVENTOR, DR. AVERY TOWERS.
Y'SEE, ON ONE FREQUENCY, THE RAY MAKES PAPER AGE REAL QUICK AND EXPLODE, LIKE A BIG OL' BOMB...
...AND ON ITS OTHER FREQUENCY-- WELL, YOU'LL SEE!
MMMMMMNNN...
THAT GRODY OLD COMIC... IT LOOKS BRAND-NEW NOW!
YEAH! I'VE BEEN LOOKIN' FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS ALL MY LIFE
...EVER SINCE I WAS A KID, I WANTED EVERY COMIC BOOK IN THE WORLD-- IN MINT CONDITION. I READ ALL I COULD ABOUT COLLECTING...
NEAR MINT
NEAR LINT
COMICS
HOW TO COLLECT
ATOM DUCK
...BUT MY UPTIGHT FASCIST PARENTS WANTED ME TO GO TO SCHOOL... LEARN TO MAKE IT IN "THE REAL WORLD..."
SCIENCE
PTA
...WELL, I DECIDED I DIDN'T WANT TO BE IN THE REAL WORLD--AND I WON'T BE!
PRETTY SOON, MY PLAN'LL BE READY... THE REAL WORLD'LL BE IN PRETTY SAD SHAPE, BUT YOU'N ME, WE'LL BE HAPPY, PRIS-TEEN!
MIELAR, I TOLD YOU TO STOP...
"...WE...?"
9

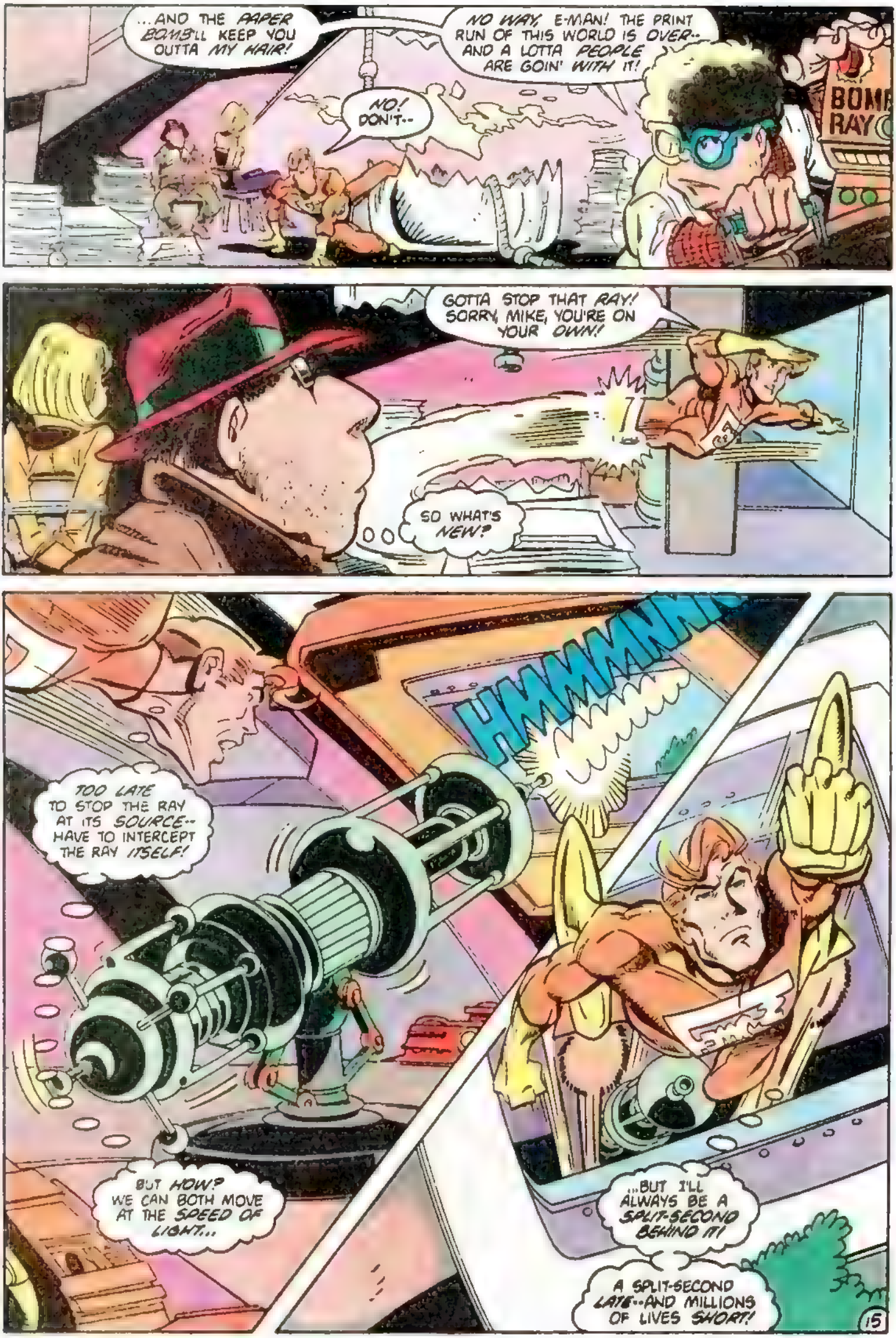
"ALBANY, NEW YORK...DER CAPITAL OF DIS GREAT STATE...VHERE TINGS ARE NOT GOINK AS SMOOTHLY AS TWO INVESTIGATORS COULD HOPE..."
RENT-A-SENATOR CHEAP
rantaco the Place for Comic Relief!
THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES WILL BE HAPPY TO PROVIDE YOU WITH THE REQUESTED INFORMATION, MR. MAUSER...
Ritchen
...PROVIDED YOU FILL OUT THE REQUIRED FORMS, PAY THE REQUIRED FEE, AND WAIT THE REQUIRED FOUR WEEKS, MINIMUM.
AN' BY THEN, A LOTTA FOLKS MAY "REQUIRE" A PINE BOX, LADY! HEY, I'M TALKIN' T'YOU
DON'T WASTE YOUR ENERGY, MIKE...
JUST LET ME EXPEND A LITTLE OF MINE!
TRONN, COME BACK HERE...!
LET'S SEE, MARRIAGE LICENSES, VENDOR'S LICENSES... HERE WE ARE!
GOT THE INFORMATION, MIKE; LET'S GO!
YOU WATCH IT, TRONN! YOU GET CAUGHT, I COULD GET MY LICENSE REVOKED!
OH, THEN I GUESS YOU DON'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT THE 212 UNPAID PARKING TICKETS OF YOURS THAT I DELETED TOO, HUH?
ON SECOND THOUGHT, THERE'S SOMETHIN' T'BE SAID FOR AN OPERATIVE WITH INITIATIVE...

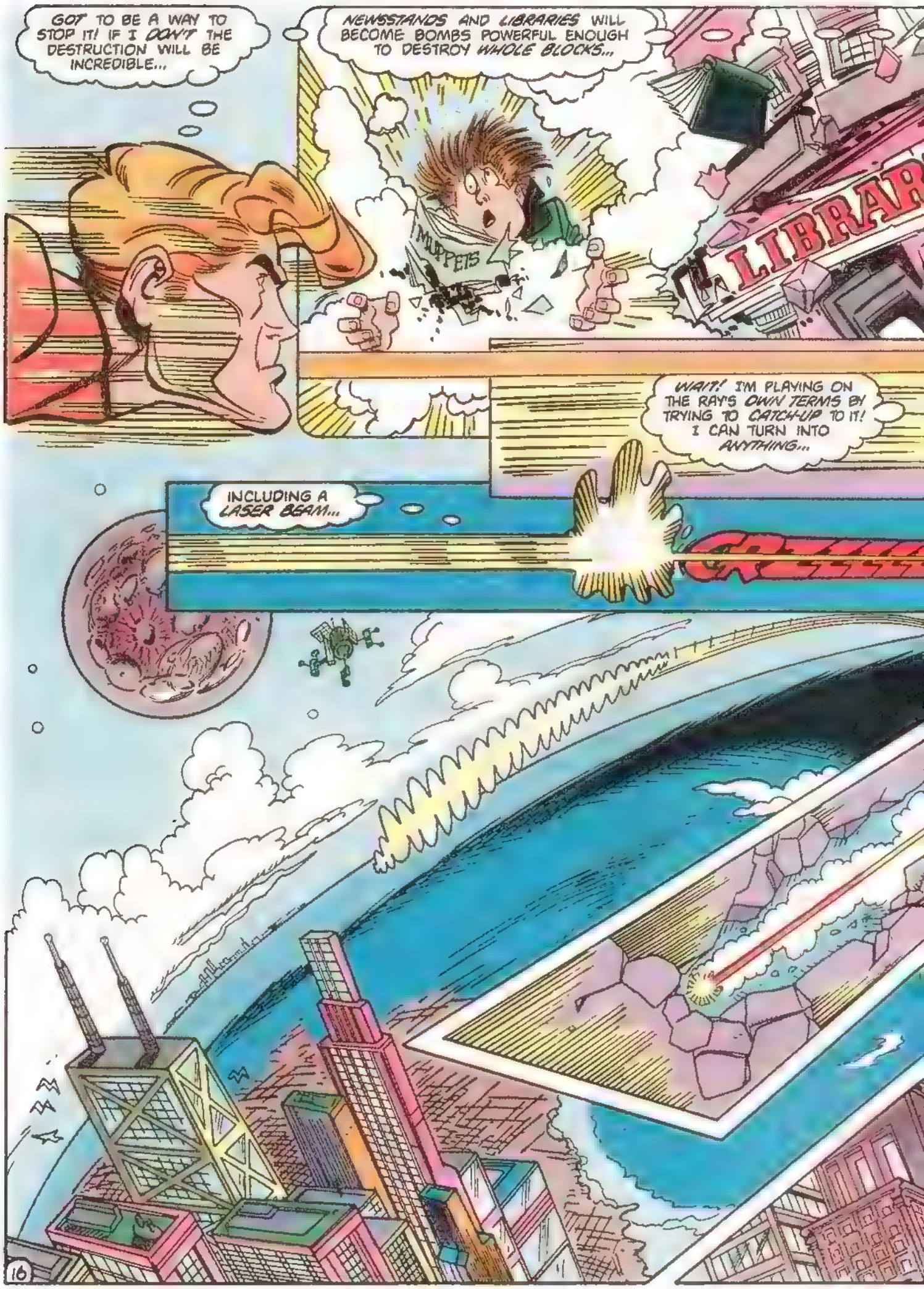
"...UND ZOOM..."
ALL CLEAR, MIKE-C'MON OVER!
RIGHT-- BUT HOW ABOUT TURNIN' INTO AN ESCALATOR, NEXT TIME, HUH?
WE'RE TRESPASSING NOW, MIKE-- SHOULDN'T YOU HAVE A SEARCH WARRANT TO INVESTIGATE THE SNUGGS' PROPERTY?
WARRANT, SCHMARRENT!*
*MR. MAUSER'S OPINIONS ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION-BUT PROBABLY ARE.
EEEEEEEEKKK
SOMEONES IN TROUBLE!
UP, UP AND--
DON'T SAY IT, TRONN...
...YOU'RE JUST BEGGIN' FOR ANOTHER PHONE CALL!
CRASH
AH-- I NEEDED THAT!
BANG
EASY, MISS-- WHAT'S WRONG?
D-DOWN THERE... IT'S HORRIBLE, I-I-I--
WOW.
I HEARD'A GETTIN' BAGGED...
11

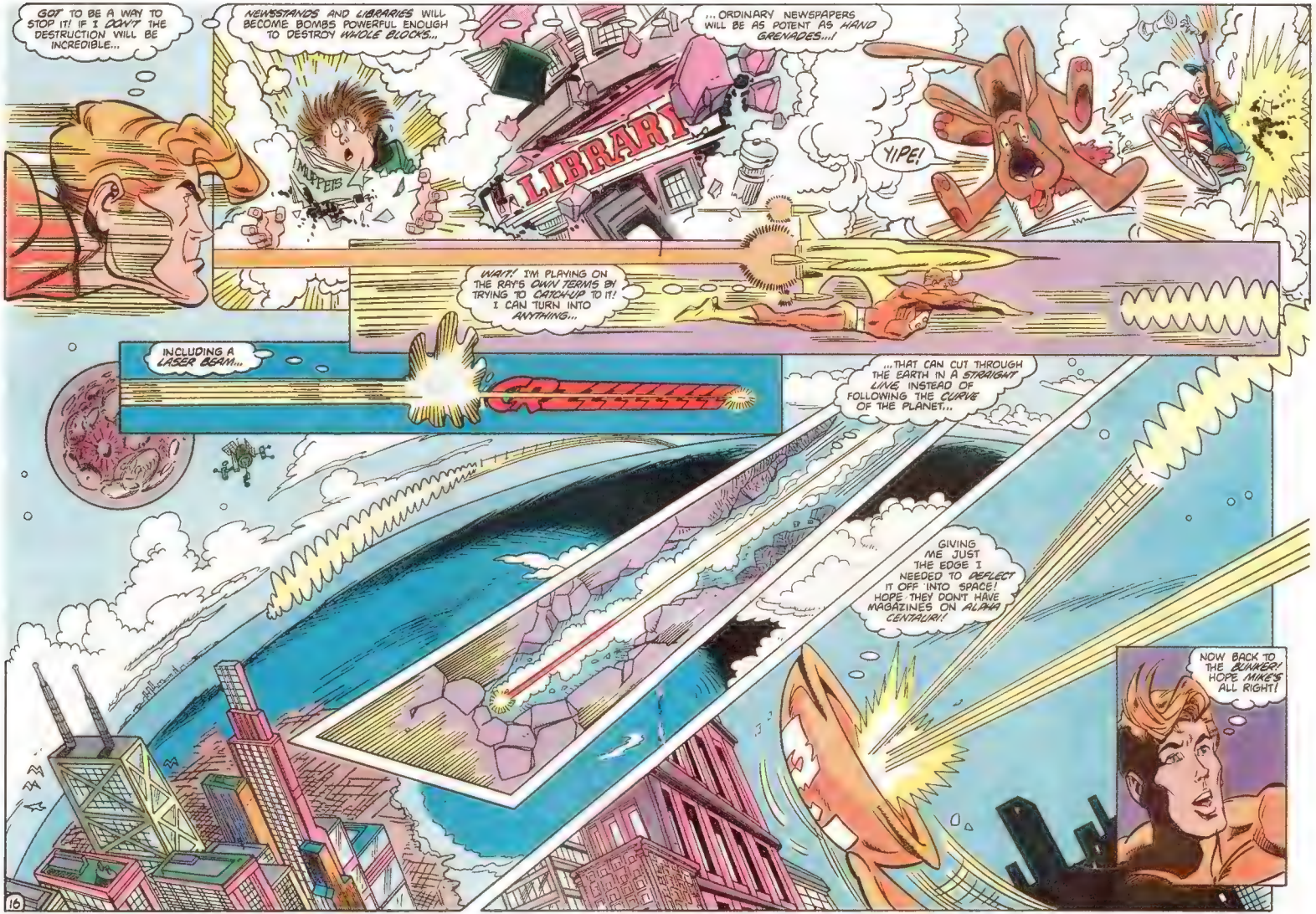
...BUT THIS IS RIDICULOUS!
WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE, MISS--AND WHO ARE YOU?
M-MY NAME IS PRISCILLA... I LIVE NEXT DOOR...! THEY'RE :sniff: MIELAR'S PARENTS...OR THEY WERE!
I CAME IN HERE 'CUZ I HAD SOME THINKING TO DO--AND FOUND 'EM JUST LIKE THIS!
THEY'RE DEAD, AREN'T THEY?
I'M AFRAID SO.
I WONDERED WHY I HADN'T SEEN 'EM AROUND FOR A WHILE, AND HOW MIELAR GOT MONEY FOR ALL HIS STUFF--
I'M SORRY YOU FOUND OUT THIS WAY PRIS-TEEN...
...BUT LOOK AT IT THIS WAY--MOM'LL NEVER NEED ANOTHER FACE-LIFT EVER AGAIN! SHE'LL STAY IN MINT CONDITION, FOREVER!
PUT THE GUN DOWN MIELAR...
DON'T PANIC
YOU'RE OUTNUMBERED, THREE-TO-ONE!
THAT'S NO BIG DEAL...
WHOOOOM
...NOT AS LONG AS THE PAPER RAY WORKS ON WALLPAPER, TOO!
12


FEEL SO STRANGE...
HOOKED UP TO SOME KIND OF APPARATUS-- GOT TO BREAK FREE...
...BUT I CAN'T!
HE'S AWAKE, DR. TOWERS--ARE YOU SURE HE CAN'T GET OUT?
NEAT! I KNEW I MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE WHEN I BRIBED YOU AWAY FROM YOUR WORK TO INVENT THE PAPER RAY...
POSITIVE, MY BOY! IN THAT HALF-HUMAN, HALF-ENERGY STATE, HE IS QUITE MANIPULABLE, AND EQUALLY HELPLESS.
ALSO, HE WILL PROVIDE POWER ENOUGH TO ENERGIZE THIS BUNKER AND ALL ITS DEVICES FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE!
...I MEAN, WHO CARES ABOUT DUMB OL' CANCER RESEARCH, ANYWAY?
MR. MAUSER, YOU'RE GONNA WIND UP IN A PLASTIC BAG, JUST LIKE MOM AND DAD.. ACID-FREE AND PRESERVED FOREVER...
WHAT ABOUT ME, MIELAR?
DON'T WORRY, PRIS-TEEN! YOU'RE GONNA STAY DOWN HERE WITH ME...
CAPTAIN CRUSTACEAN
LORETTA the LIZARD™
...AND MY COMICS...
...AND MY PULPS...
...AND MY VIDEOTAPES...
...AND MY TV GUIDES...
...AND MY OLD RADIO RECORDINGS...
...AND MY BUBBLE GUM CARDS...
...FOREVER!
YOU AND ME... DOWN HERE, FOREVER?
OH, BARF!

IT'LL BE FUN, PRIS--YOU'LL SEE!
DR. TOWERS, IS THE PAPER RAY READY FOR WORLD-WIDE SATURATION?
YES, MIELAR...BUT I MUST CONFESS, I'M BY NO MEANS SANGUINE ABOUT THE DESTRUCTION AND INJURIES THE RAY WILL WREAK ON HUMANITY!
BUT WE GOTTA PROVE THE RAY WORKS ON A LARGE SCALE, DON'T WE, DOC? JUST THINK OF THIS AS WORLD WAR II...
AND THE WORLD AS THE CITY OF HIROSHIMA!
WELL, IN THAT CASE...
E-MAN, YOU'VE GOT TO STOP HIM...GUM UP HIS PLAN!
G-GUM...?
GUM! MIGHT GIVE MYSELF A CAVITY OR TWO...
...BUT IT'S FOR A GOOD CAUSE!
CHOMP
"...UND WITH DER ENERGY CONDUITS BLOCKED BY STICKY CHEWINK GUM...
PLOORP
"...DER ENERGY-ACE IS FREE!
KRASSH
WHO NEEDS YOU, ANYWAY? I GOT MY OWN GENERATOR...
14


...AND THE PAPER BOMB'LL KEEP YOU OUTTA MY HAIR!
NO WAY, E-MAN! THE PRINT RUN OF THIS WORLD IS OVER-- AND A LOTTA PEOPLE ARE GOIN' WITH IT!
NO! DON'T--
BOMB RAY
GOTTA STOP THAT RAY! SORRY, MIKE, YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN!
SO WHAT'S NEW?
HMMMMM
TOO LATE TO STOP THE RAY AT ITS SOURCE-- HAVE TO INTERCEPT THE RAY ITSELF!
BUT HOW? WE CAN BOTH MOVE AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT...
...BUT I'LL ALWAYS BE A SPLIT-SECOND BEHIND IT!
A SPLIT-SECOND LATE--AND MILLIONS OF LIVES SHORT!
15


GOT TO BE A WAY TO STOP IT! IF I DON'T THE DESTRUCTION WILL BE INCREDIBLE...
NEWSSTANDS AND LIBRARIES WILL BECOME BOMBS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO DESTROY WHOLE BLOCKS...
MUPPETS
LIBRAR
WAIT! I'M PLAYING ON THE RAY'S OWN TERMS BY TRYING TO CATCH-UP TO IT! I CAN TURN INTO ANYTHING...
INCLUDING A LASER BEAM...


GOT TO BE A WAY TO STOP IT! IF I DON'T THE DESTRUCTION WILL BE INCREDIBLE...
NEWSSTANDS AND LIBRARIES WILL BECOME BOMBS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO DESTROY WHOLE BLOCKS...
...ORDINARY NEWSPAPERS WILL BE AS POTENT AS HAND GRENADES...!
LIBRARY
YIPE!
WAIT! I'M PLAYING ON THE RAY'S OWN TERMS BY TRYING TO CATCH-UP TO IT! I CAN TURN INTO ANYTHING...
INCLUDING A LASER BEAM...
...THAT CAN CUT THROUGH THE EARTH IN A STRAIGHT LINE INSTEAD OF FOLLOWING THE CURVE OF THE PLANET...
GIVING ME JUST THE EDGE I NEEDED TO DEFLECT IT OFF INTO SPACE! HOPE THEY DON'T HAVE MAGAZINES ON ALPHA CENTAURI!
NOW BACK TO THE BUNKER! HOPE MIKE'S ALL RIGHT!

...ORDINARY NEWSPAPERS WILL BE AS POTENT AS HAND GRENADES...!
YIPE!
...THAT CAN CUT THROUGH THE EARTH IN A STRAIGHT LINE, INSTEAD OF FOLLOWING THE CURVE OF THE PLANET...
GIVING ME JUST THE EDGE I NEEDED TO DEFLECT IT OFF INTO SPACE! HOPE THEY DON'T HAVE MAGAZINES ON ALPHA CENTAURI!
NOW BACK TO THE BUNKER! HOPE MIKE'S ALL RIGHT!

C'MON OUTTA THERE, SNUGGS!
BITE BROWN AIR, MOLE-FACE! IF I WERE YOU, I'D BE THE ONE TO GET OUTTA HERE...
REALITY IS A CRUTCH
...UNLESS YOU'VE BROUGHT A CHANGE OF UNDERWEAR!
SEAL BUNKER
CHANGE OF UNDERWEAR? NAH, IT'S ONLY THURSDAY!
LET'S MAKE TRACKS, KID-- UNLESS YOU LIKE THE PERFUME "EAU DE PULP!"
I'M COMING!
MAKE YOUR CHOICE, TOWERS. YOU STAYIN' OR GOIN'?
WELL...ER... I DON'T KNOW. MY RESEARCH PAPERS ARE ALL IN THE BUNKER, YET THERE IS A SYMPOSIUM IN STOCKHOLM NEXT YEAR I--
HOPE YOU LIKE SWEDISH MEATBALLS, DOC!
WAUMP
MIKE, HOW'D YOU GET FREE OF THE ROPES?
NO SWEAT; I JUST SAWED THROUGH 'EM WITH MY STUBBLE!
BUT, THE DUMPLING IS STILL IN THERE!

NOT FOR LONG, HE'S NOT! HE'S GOT TO PAY FOR WHAT HE'S DONE TO HIS AARENTS...
RRRRRRRR
THOUGH HOW WE'RE GOING TO MAKE HIM DO THAT IS ANYBODY'S GUESS! YOWCH!
EVEN A DIAMOND-TIPPED DRILL CAN'T PENETRATE THAT BUNKER!
MAYBE IT'S JUST AS WELL, TRONN...
"...IT'S A KIND'A SOLITARY CONFINEMENT, AFTER ALL...!"
TOO BAD PRIS-TEEN WOULDN'T STAY, BUT I'VE GOT MY COLLECTION AND THAT'S WHAT COUNTS!
I THINK I'LL START WITH--HUH? THIS COMIC IS BRAND-NEW, WHAT HAPPENED--?
HED HER SHELL!
MADLY IN LOVE
POOF
THE AAPER RAY MUSTA DONE IT! IT DID ELIMINATE AGING IN PAPER... B-BUT ONLY FOR A LITTLE WHILE... THEN IT SPEEDS IT UP!
A-AND I EXPOSED MY ENTIRE COLLECTION TO IT--OH NO...
NOOOOOOOO
SOMETHING WRONG, PRISCILLA?
I-I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMEONE CRYING...BUT IT MUST'VE BEEN MY IMAGINATION!
E=MC2
UND ZO, THE ZECRET OF DER AAPER BOMB HAZ BEEN LOZT FOR GOOD-- UND THANK HEAVEN...
IT'Z MUCH TOO DANGEROUS TO BE GIFFEN TO CHUST ANYVUN!
MEET THE
PSYCHO
BABBLER
NEXT MONTH

%FIRST COMICS, 1014 DAVIS STREET, EVANSTON, ILLINOIS 60201

Martin, Joe and Mike

Whew. This was my first experience with E-Man and it was nothing like I expected. The last thing I expected it to be was a satirical tour-de-force — and the fact that it was has already enamored me to the book.

I thought that the references to comics and comics personnel were a little too cute, though. There is a very good chance that many of those inside jokes could go over the head of some readers. But that is a small complaint and perhaps a bit trivial.

The pacing of the book excited me a great deal — it is almost relentless in that something is always happening. Although the artwork at first seemed to be a little cluttered, I realize now that this was probably a decided approach. It certainly gives the feel of continuous panel-to-panel movement and action. Although the characters often look unreal, this too only contributes to the general manic feeling of what's going on.

All in all, a very strange but successful first issue. As I said before, it was nothing like I expected and better than I had hoped it would be: bizarre and entertaining.

Thomas Long
Route 3, Box 146
Edwardsville, IL

The question of how much comics satire is too much is one that we're going to work on, Tom. Certainly, after the F-Men story the past two issues, and this month's attempt at nibbling a bit on the hands of people who feed us, we're going to give it a bit of a rest. But, on the other hand, we know one of the luxuries of the "direct sale" comics business is that almost all of our comics are sold in stores where the reader is surrounded by the genre: most of our readers are as aware of the X-Men as they are of Raiders of the Lost Ark. We'll try to avoid the safe targets.

Dear Mr. Gold:

I am crazy over E-Man! It's great! Now I have one small problem — I have to decide what comics to read!

I'm definitely buying E-Man, the X-Men, the New Teen Titans, and Warlord, but I also want Dazzler, Starslayer, The New Mutants and Jon Sable, Freelance! That's almost $6.00 I'll have to spend! What will I do if you guys start doing annuals?

I'm in trouble! Wait! I know! I'll get a job! And get married! And raise a family! And then my kids will start buying comics and I won't have to worry about it anymore!

Guy W. West
207 Illini Drive
Galesburg, IL

You know, Guy, I always wondered what ever happened to the exclamation point after the comics publishers decided the period was a legitimate part of the English language.

Dear Mike:

So, E-Man's back, huh? Well, I've never cared much for the "funny superheroes." Give me the straight laced, serious crimebusters every time. I much prefer them. And yet...

And yet, even back in the seventies I really enjoyed E-Man. The humor was subtle, and I think that's what did it. My tastes have changed a lot since those days, and I'm reading Captain Carrot, and enjoying it to some extent, but that book really can't match the quality I found way back when in the old E-Man series. The humor was both subtle and buried in satire. Plastic Man has always been good with subtle humor, but always detracted from that some with too much slapstick.

I've not cared too much for Joe Staton's stuff at DC, but I remember it very fondly from the old E-Man series. It always looked like he took about five times as much time to do it than the DC stuff.

I've read the first First issue and all of a sudden it's the 1970's all over again.

William Decker
1114 Water
Eton Rapids, MI

Gee whiz, William, and all the while we were going for an early 1950's approach: Joe McCarthy jokes, gags about Ike's golf score, the favorite "What's Dickie Nixon doing" routines...

Dear Mike and Co.:

Loved the first issue of the second title from First Comics. Not to mention the second issue of the first title from First Comics. Who's on first?

Gosh, I can't seem to locate my Charlton E-Man collection. Who is Teddy Q? What is Teddy Q? Let's have a recap of Teddy Q's origin, for those of us with foggy memories. Or, how about a Teddy Q back-up feature, or a Teddy Q comic?

I've been enjoying Bruce Patterson's house ads. Perhaps you can get Bruce to squeeze a full pencil and ink strip into his already busy schedule. Nova or Sargon would be the obvious choice.

S. Vincent Kampton
1773 Selby Avenue
St. Paul Park, MN

Your wish, as they say, is our command: If you'll look to the last storypage in this very issue, you will see the very first Teddy Q solo-story. And, you better sit still for this, it was written, pencilled and inked by none other than the amazing and deeply weird Bruce Patterson.

As for the secret origin of Teddy Q — well, I think you'll find it is tied in to the origin of Chaos, Prince of Madness, in the **Warp Special** *that is on sale right this very minute. Future plans for the furry one (Teddy, not Bruce) include his starring in a Classics Comics style adaptation of Franz Kafka's Amerika.*

Dear Mike, Joe, Marty and Bruce:

Thomas Wolfe was wrong. Welcome back!

L. Stephen Borer
2135 Inglehart Avenue
St. Paul, MN

I guess **E-Man's** *got the right stuff!*

Dear First Comics:

I have only two things to say. First, the thing I like most about your comics, next to your fantastic art, excellent stories, top-notch talent, low ad format (the Byrne ad in the back of E-Man #1 was great) is the awesome unmarred covers!!! ALL RIGHT!!!!!

Second is, I hope you're around for a looooooong time

Tom Conti
1105 Massachusetts
Avenue
Cambridge, MA

Thanks for the thought. We're trying to keep a minimum of copy on our covers. Although with all due respect, I think Jim Shooter's done a great deal along those lines ever since he took over at Marvel Comics. What we're trying to accomplish here at First Comics is to come up with a style that would make any First Comic immediately noticeable as such, without being a limiting influence on the artist. Just thought you'd like to know.

NEXT MONTH: Martin Pasko has survived his food poisoning (gasp), and is back on the horse with another 27 page thriller: "Getting Void." It seems there's this guy named the Psychobabbler who's holding the entire city of New York for ransom. And there's this semi-religious dude named Elrod Flummox. And, most bizarre of all, for some reason only hinted at, Michael Mauser — you better be sitting down for this — *cleans up!* Art, of course, provided by **Joe Staton.**

And on the last page we offer the four color debut of **Reed Waller's** highly-praised, and banned in England, **Omaha the Cat Dancer!**

Don't forget to pay your taxes, and we'll see you the end of April!

— Mike Gold

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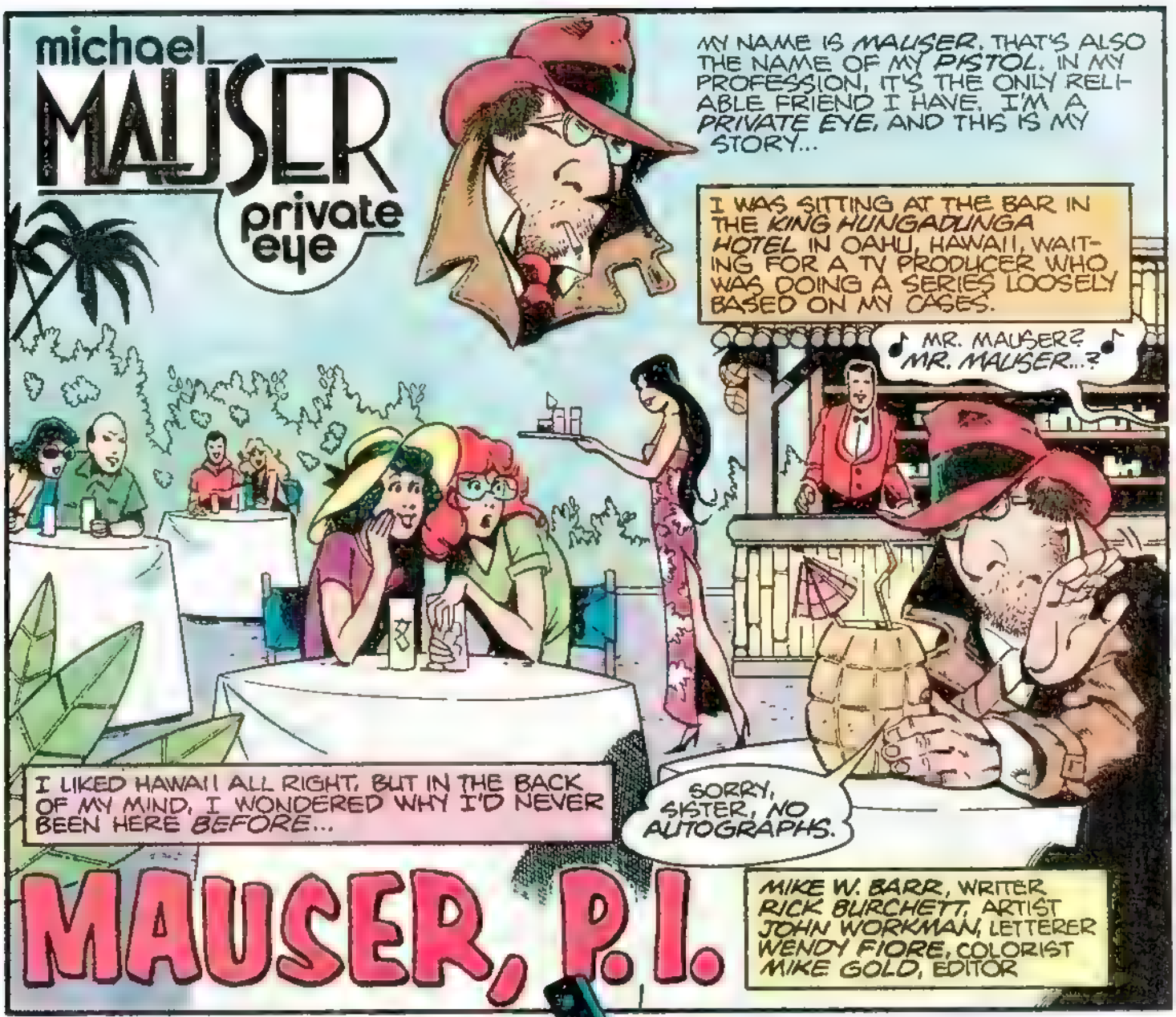
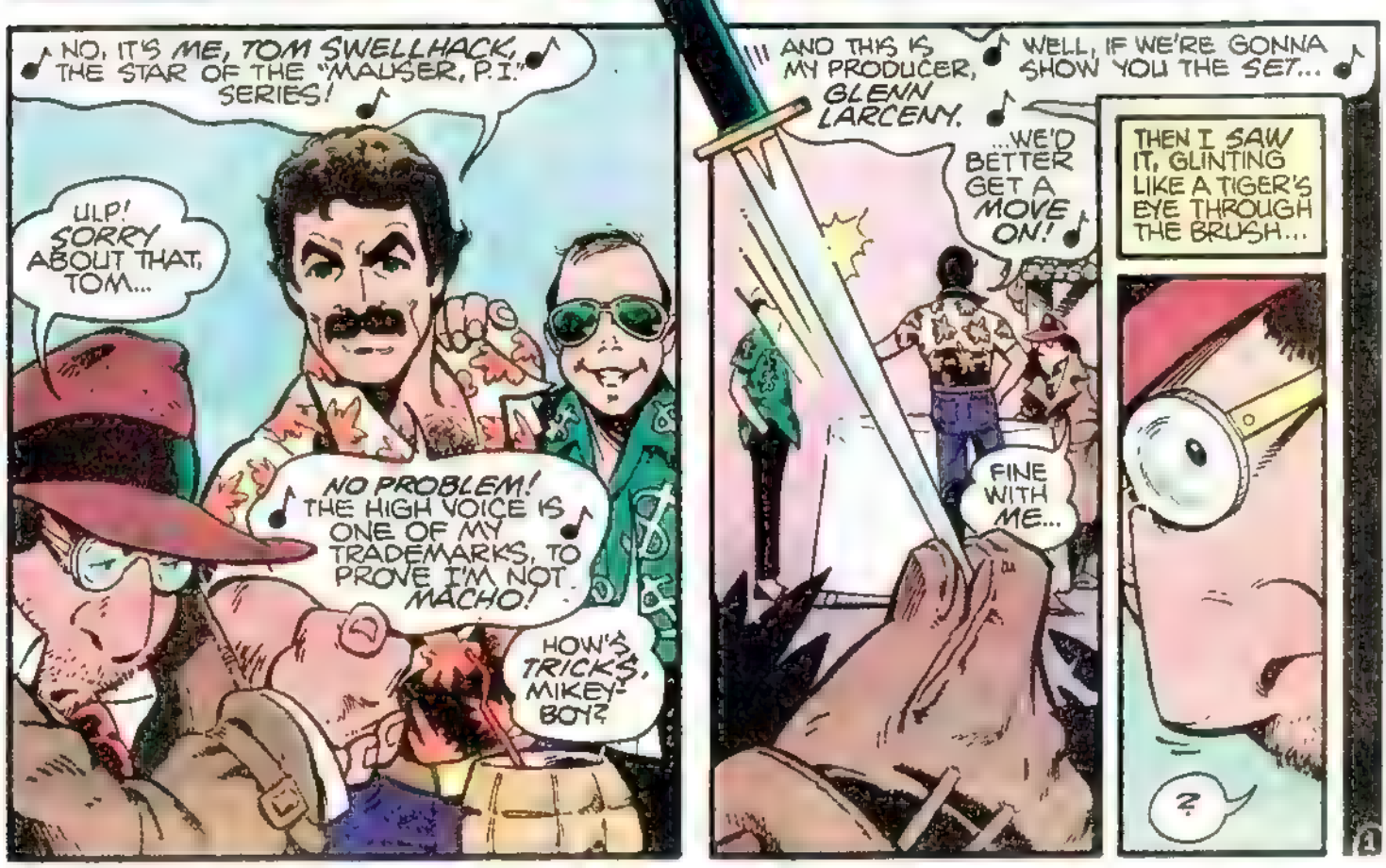
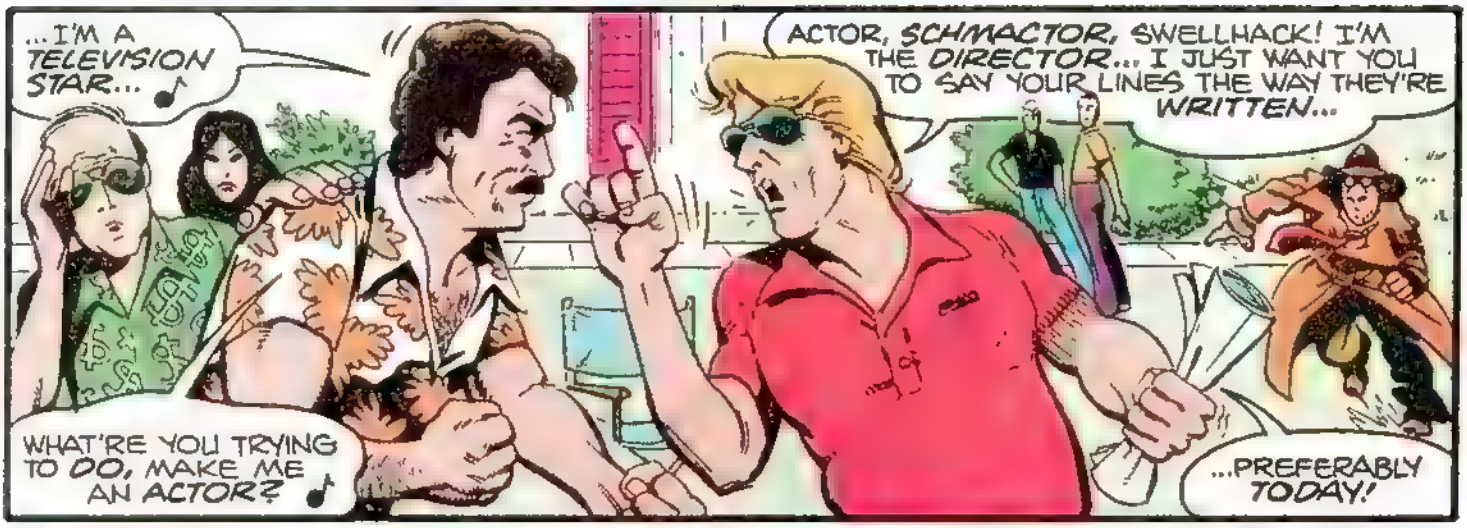
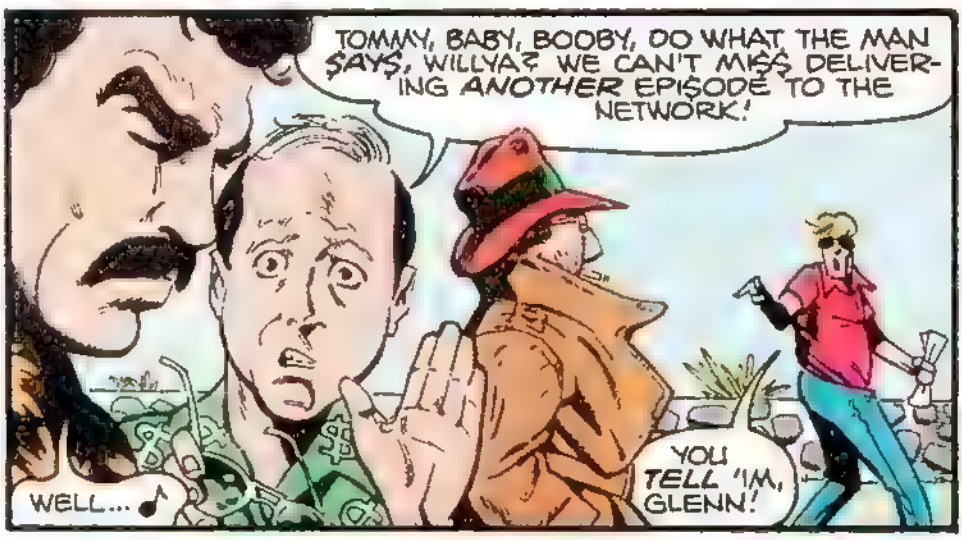

michael MAUSER private eye
MY NAME IS MAUSER. THAT'S ALSO THE NAME OF MY PISTOL. IN MY PROFESSION, IT'S THE ONLY RELIABLE FRIEND I HAVE. I'M A PRIVATE EYE, AND THIS IS MY STORY...
I WAS SITTING AT THE BAR IN THE KING HUNGADUNGA HOTEL IN OAHU, HAWAII, WAITING FOR A TV PRODUCER WHO WAS DOING A SERIES LOOSELY BASED ON MY CASES.
♪ MR. MAUSER? MR. MAUSER...? ♪
I LIKED HAWAII ALL RIGHT, BUT IN THE BACK OF MY MIND, I WONDERED WHY I'D NEVER BEEN HERE BEFORE...
SORRY, SISTER, NO AUTOGRAPHS.
MAUSER, P.I.
MIKE W. BARR, WRITER
RICK BURCHETT, ARTIST
JOHN WORKMAN, LETTERER
WENDY FIORE, COLORIST
MIKE GOLD, EDITOR

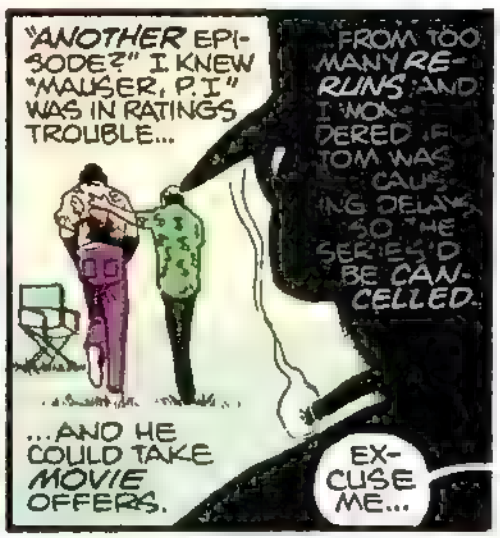

♪ NO, IT'S ME, TOM SWELLHACK, THE STAR OF THE "MAUSER, P.I." SERIES! ♪
ULP! SORRY ABOUT THAT, TOM...
♪ NO PROBLEM! THE HIGH VOICE IS ONE OF MY TRADEMARKS, TO PROVE I'M NOT MACHO! ♪
HOW'S TRICKS, MIKEY-BOY?
♪ AND THIS IS MY PRODUCER, GLENN LARCENY. ♪
♪ WELL, IF WE'RE GONNA SHOW YOU THE SET... ♪
♪ ...WE'D BETTER GET A MOVE ON! ♪
FINE WITH ME...
THEN I SAW IT, GLINTING LIKE A TIGER'S EYE THROUGH THE BRUSH...
?

LOOK OUT!
CLUNK
AGGGH!
STOP!
HE DIDN'T, OF COURSE, BUT I GOT A SOU-VENIR FOR MY TROUBLE.
THE CLOSEST I'VE EVER BEEN TO HAWAII IS LISTEN-ING TO DON HO...
..SO WHICH ONE OF YOU WAS OUR FRIEND AIMING AT?
♪ME.♪
Y'SEE, MICHAEL, SWEETIE, WE INVITED YOU OUT HERE TO DO MORE THAN TOUR THE SET...
I FIGURED.
...WE NEED SOME PUBLICITY-FREE SNOOPING, TOO. TELL 'IM, TOMMY.
♪THE FIRST ATTEMPT HAPPENED A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO, DURING THE OBLIGATORY GIRLS-IN-BIKINIS SCENE. ONE OF 'EM WAS SUPPOSED TO TAKE A SHOT AT ME...♪
♪...BUT WITH BLANKS, NOT LIVE SHELLS!♪
THEN YESTERDAY, WHEN WE WERE FILMING THE USUAL CLIMACTIC CAR CHASE, ♪I BRAKED ON A SHARP CURVE...♪
♪...BUT MY FERRARI DIDN'T. I BARELY MADE IT OUT IN TIME!♪

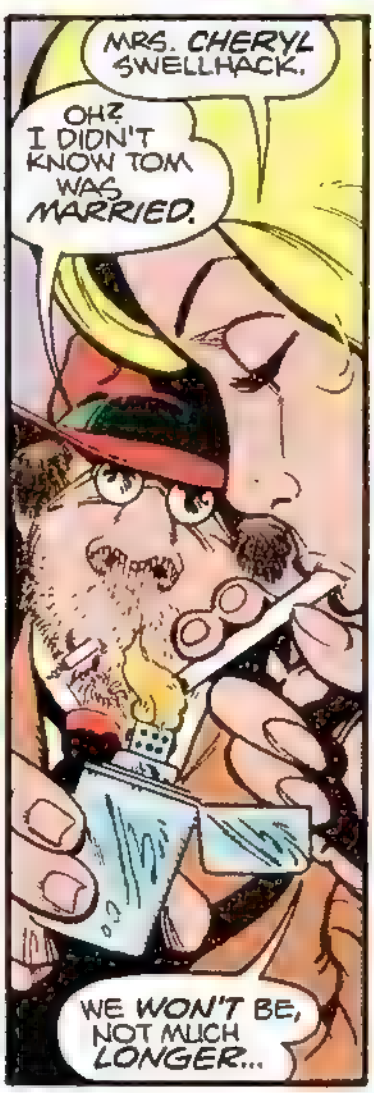
GIRLS IN BIKINIS. CAR CHASES. FERRARIS.
SERIOUS UP, MIKE. WE NEED YOUR HELP.
I'M GLAD YOU GUYS AREN'T DOING A MACHO TV SHOW.
THE KID $PEAK$ HIGH, BUT TRUE, MICKEY-BOY. WILL YOU DO IT? PLEA$E?
I'LL DO IT...
...BUT DON'T CALL ME MICKEY.
ONE OF THE SETS OF "MAUSER, P.I." I WAS STAYING IN THE BACKGROUND, KEEPING MY MOUTH SHUT, AND MY EYES OPEN, WHEN...
MR. MAUSER? =SNIF=
DELIGHTED TO HAVE YOU AS OUR GUEST, SIR. =SNIF= MY NAME IS JOHN HILLERHAM.
OH, YEAH. NICE TO MEET YOU.
YOU LIKE WORKING ON THIS SHOW, MR. HILLERHAM?
MY BOY, I LOVE IT. =SNIF= MY ROLE AS THE TV-MAUSER'S FRIENDLY ENEMY, PRIGGINS, IS INTERESTING...
...WITHOUT BEING ARDUOUS...
...AND IT DOES KEEP THE BANK BALANCE BUOYANT. =SNIF=
GEEZ, HE SNIFFS CONDESCENDINGLY IN REAL LIFE, TOO.
MY LAST SERIES WAS MALLORY KING, A WELL-WRITTEN, WELL-ACTED, INTELLECTUAL TELEVISION SHOW... WHICH LASTED ONE SEASON. MINDLESS FLUFF IS WHERE THE MONEY IS, MICHAEL.
YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME...!
13

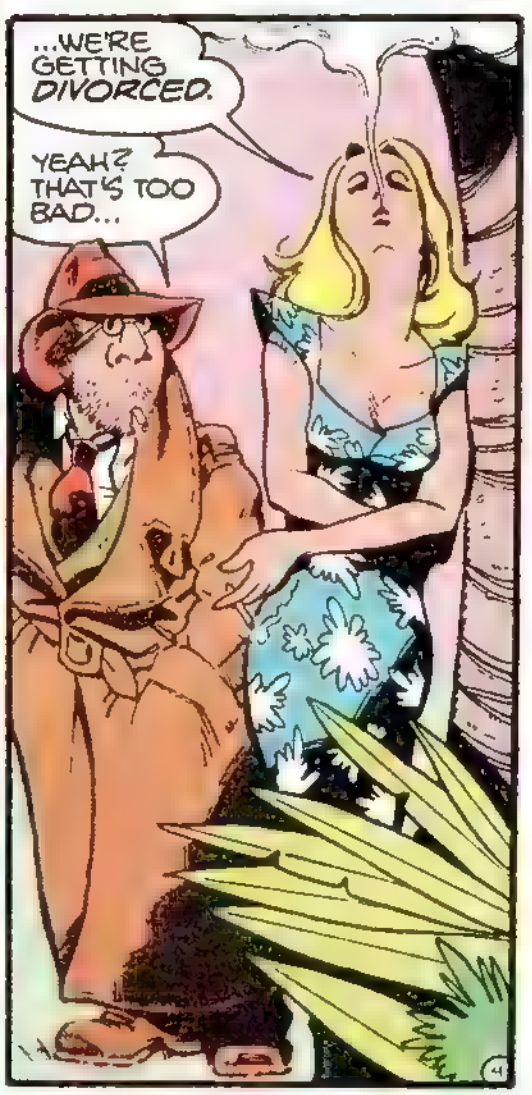

...I'M A TELEVISION STAR...
WHAT'RE YOU TRYING TO DO, MAKE ME AN ACTOR?
ACTOR, SCHMACTOR, SWELLHACK! I'M THE DIRECTOR... I JUST WANT YOU TO SAY YOUR LINES THE WAY THEY'RE WRITTEN...
...PREFERABLY TODAY!


TOMMY, BABY, BOOBY, DO WHAT THE MAN SAYS, WILLYA? WE CAN'T MISS DELIVERING ANOTHER EPISODE TO THE NETWORK!
WELL...
YOU TELL 'IM, GLENN!

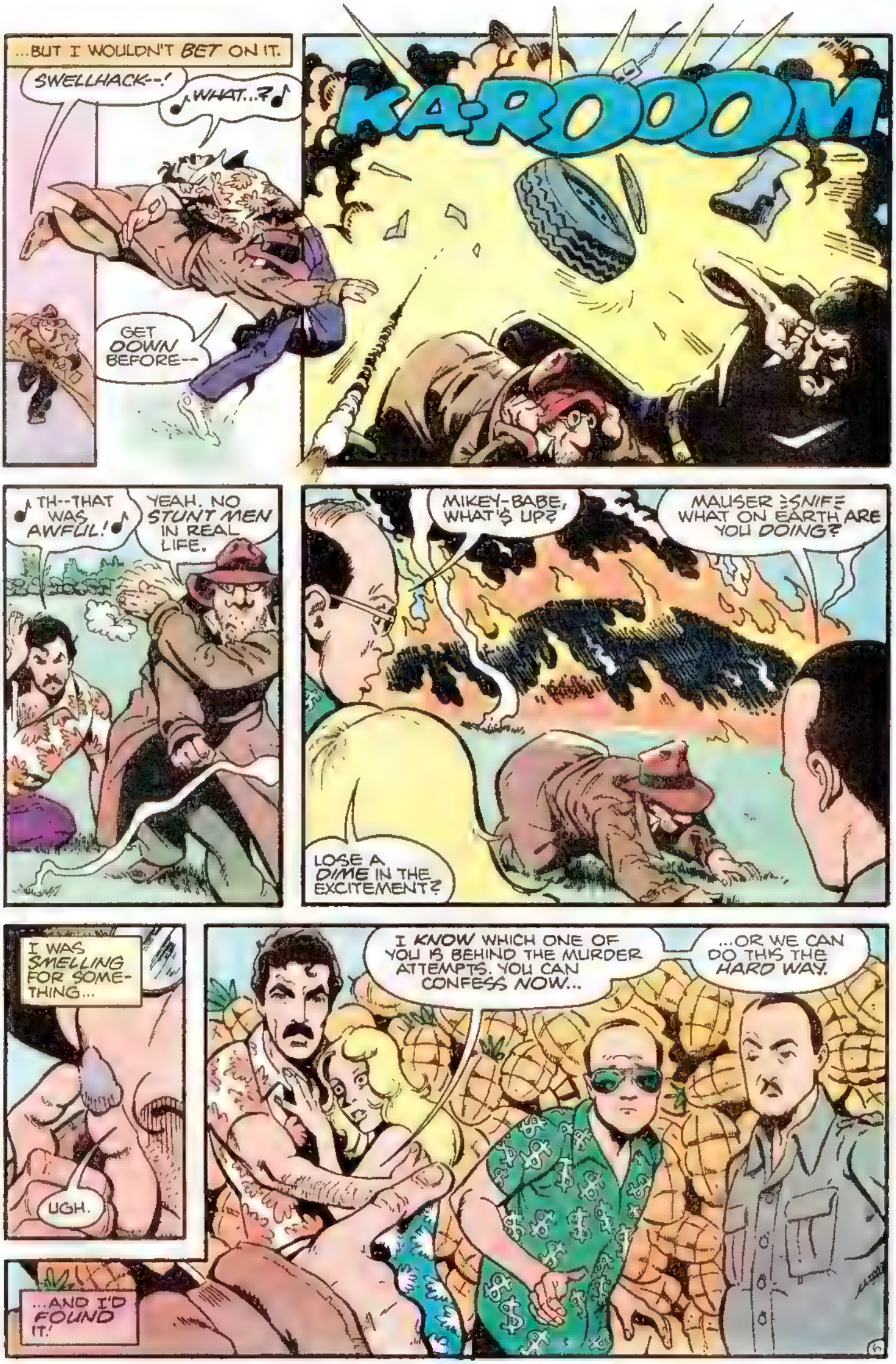

"ANOTHER EPISODE?" I KNEW "MAUSER, P.I." WAS IN RATINGS TROUBLE...
FROM TOO MANY RERUNS: AND I WONDERED IF TOM WAS CAUSING DELAYS SO THE SERIES'D BE CANCELLED.
...AND HE COULD TAKE MOVIE OFFERS.
EXCUSE ME...

...BUT COULD I BORROW A CIGARETTE FROM YOU? I'M FRESH OUT.
I NEVER AM. MY NAME'S MAUSER, MISS.. ?
MRS...


MRS. CHERYL SWELLHACK.
OH? I DIDN'T KNOW TOM WAS MARRIED.
WE WON'T BE, NOT MUCH LONGER...


...WE'RE GETTING DIVORCED.
YEAH? THAT'S TOO BAD...

...SHAME TO SEE A MARRIAGE BETWEEN SUCH A HANDSOME COUPLE GO DOWN THE DRAIN.
I AGREE. BUT I'M AN ACTOR TOO, MR. MAUSER... AND IT'S TOUGH BEING MARRIED TO A MAN WHO'S PRETTIER THAN YOU ARE.
IF YOU SAY SO. WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, CHERYL?
I--I'M WORRIED, MR. MAUSER. I'VE HEARD ABOUT THE ATTEMPTS ON TOM'S LIFE, AND I... HE...
...MR. MAUSER, I HAD TO BE HERE...
...I STILL LOVE HIM.
UH-HUH. MAYBE SHE WANTED TO BE AROUND IN CASE SOMETHING HAPPENED TO TOM...
...OR MAYBE SHE WANTED TO BE AROUND TO CAUSE SOMETHING TO HAPPEN TO HIM!
QUIET ON THE SET, EVERYONE!
THAT PART'S FINE...
GOT IT, TOM? YOU'RE IN THE CAR, CAREENING TOWARD CERTAIN DOOM. ONLY WAY YOU CAN STOP YOURSELF IS BY HITTING THESE PINEAPPLES, OKAY?
...BUT I'M NOT GETTING IN THAT CAR--SMELLS LIKE SOMETHING DIED IN IT! WHEW!
NOW THAT I WAS DOWNWIND, I COULD SMELL IT, TOO, A TERRIBLE STENCH LIKE RAW RUBBER. I MIGHT'VE BEEN WRONG...


...BUT I WOULDN'T BET ON IT.
SWELLHACK--!
♪WHAT...?♪
GET OOWN BEFORE--
KA-BOOOM
♪TH--THAT WAS AWFUL!♪
YEAH, NO STUNT MEN IN REAL LIFE.
MIKEY-BABE, WHAT'S UP?
MAUSER ≥SNIFF≤ WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING?
LOSE A DIME IN THE EXCITEMENT?
I WAS SMELLING FOR SOMETHING...
UGH.
...AND I'D FOUND IT!
I KNOW WHICH ONE OF YOU IS BEHIND THE MURDER ATTEMPTS. YOU CAN CONFESS NOW...
...OR WE CAN DO THIS THE HARD WAY.

HE DIDN'T CONFESS. THEY NEVER DO.
THIS IS A HUNK OF WHAT BLEW UP THE CAR; IT'S PLASTIC EXPLOSIVE, ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL KNOWN.
ONLY PROBLEM WITH IT IS, IT SMELLS TO HIGH HEAVEN.
...NOW WE KNOW THIS GUY PLAYS FOR KEEPS, AND WANTED TOM DEAD...
...SO WHAT KIND OF KILLER WOULD PICK AN EXPLOSIVE WHOSE ODOR IS SO POWERFUL THAT IT WARNED OFF ITS VICTIM?
ONLY SOMEONE WHO DIDN'T KNOW HOW BAD IT SMELLED...
..BECAUSE HE COULDN'T SMELL IT--BECAUSE HE HAS A COLD!
=SNIFF=
IT WAS YOU, HILLERHAM. YOU HAVEN'T BEEN SNIFFING CONDESCENDINGLY ALL THIS TIME, YOU JUST HAVE A COLD.
CHRONIC SINUS BLOCKAGE, ACTUALLY.
WHATEVER. FACT REMAINS, YOU'RE TAKING THE FALL.
I THINK NOT. FOR YOU SEE... =SNIFF=
.CONCEALED AMONG THESE TRUE PINEAPPLES...

♪ LOOK OUT, CHERYL! ♪
...IS A PINE-APPLE OF A RATHER DIFFERENT KIND. MY GIFT TO ANYONE WHO TRIES TO IMPEDE MY ESCAPE. =SNIF=
BUT JOHN... ♪ WHY? ♪
I BEAR YOU NO ILL WILL, DEAR BOY. HOWEVER, I WISHED TO LEAVE THIS DREADFUL SHOW, BUT MY CONTRACT PREVENTED ME.
PLICK
AND ONE WAY TO END A SHOW IS TO END THE LIFE OF ITS STAR. =SNIF=
THAT'S ENOUGH.
MAUSER, DON'T-- =SN
ACTUALLY, I WASN'T AIMING AT HIM, BUT AT THE GRENADE...
...NOT THAT IT MATTERED MUCH.
TOMMY... I... I ALMOST LOST YOU.
I CAN SEE IT NOW, A TWO-HOUR TV MOVIE-- NO, A MINI-SERIES--"TOM AND CHERYL-- LOVE CONQUERS ALL...!"
SUDDENLY, I KNEW WHY I'D NEVER GONE TO HAWAII...
BUT YOU ♪ DIDN'T, HONEY... AND YOU WON'T. ♪
...I HATE THE SMELL OF PINEAPPLE.
END

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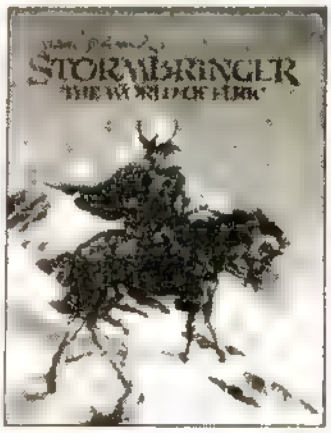

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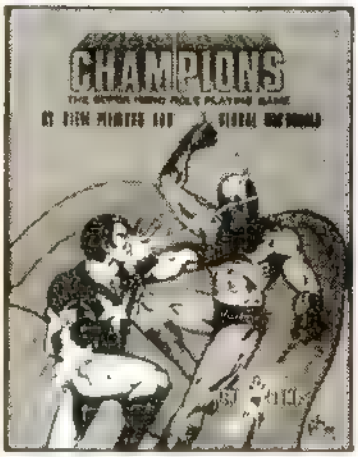

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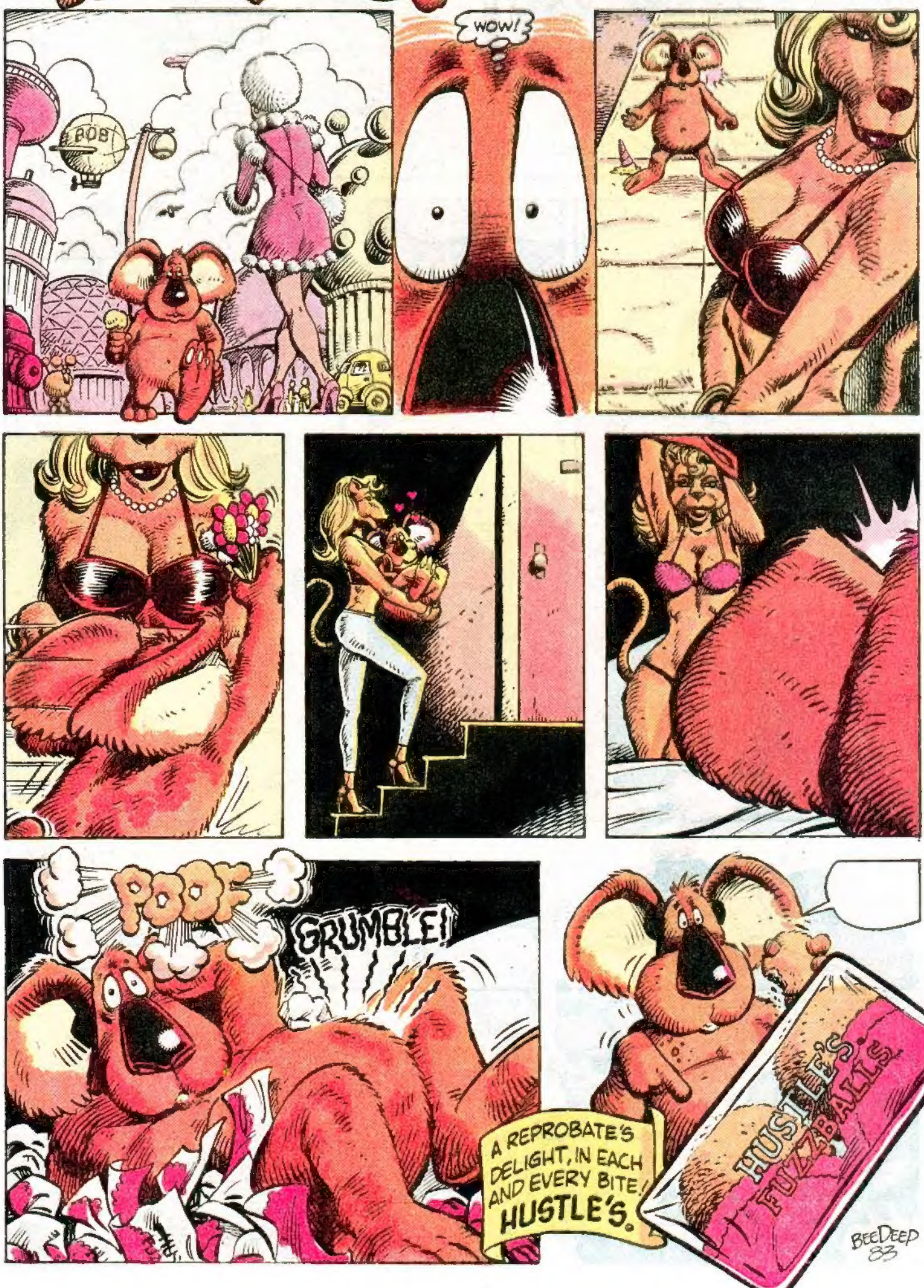

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